

Music professor receives McKnight Composition Fellowship

St. Paul, Minn. – Music Prof. Randy Bauer has received a McKnight Composition Fellowship, funded by the McKnight Foundation. He is one of four recipients. The American Composers Forum made the announcement.

These awards, which include \$25,000 in unrestricted funds for each recipient, are meant to acknowledge excellence in the field of music composition. The four fellows were chosen from a total pool of 82 applicants. This year's panelists were composers Anne LeBaron (Valencia, Calif.), Nicole Mitchell (Long Beach, Calif.), and Sven-David Sandstrom (Bloomington, Ind.).

Bauer acknowledged that it's a huge honor to be selected for this fellowship. "The McKnight Foundation has done so much to promote Minnesota artists," he said. "I'm very grateful for the award and for the recognition of my work."

Bauer is a composer and pianist immersed in both the classical and jazz worlds, and teaches courses having to do with music theory, composition, jazz and improvisation. His compositions have received several national awards and have been premiered by such groups as the Brentano String Quartet, eighth blackbird, Nash Ensemble of London, Synergy Vocals, New Millennium Ensemble, Network for New Music, Tarab Cello Ensemble, Philadelphia Chamber Symphony, and many others. Performances of his music have taken place at the Kennedy Center, St. Petersburg (Russia), Uppsala (Sweden), Berlin, Paris, New York, Baltimore, and Chicago.

He has been a fellow at Yaddo, the Ucross Foundation, and the Atlantic Center for the Arts, and also received a major fellowship from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. He has previously taught at Princeton University (both music and American Studies), the Peabody Conservatory and Skidmore College.

The other McKnight Composition Fellows are Scott Miller, Joshua Musikantow, and David Evan Thomas.

The McKnight Foundation is a multi-issue family foundation founded in Minnesota in 1953 by William L. McKnight and his wife, Maude L. McKnight. Through grant making, collaboration, and strategic policy reform, the Foundation seeks to improve the quality of life for present and future generations. Support for individual artists has been a cornerstone of The McKnight Foundation's Arts program since it began in 1981. The Foundation believes that the arts cannot flourish or enhance community life without the ideas, energy, and drive of individual artists, and that artists cannot make these contributions without unfettered creative time. A fellowship can help an artist set aside a period of time for study, reflection, experimentation, and exploration; take advantage of an opportunity; or work on a new project. Fellowships are awarded based on past work; funding is wholly unrestricted and may be used however the artist chooses.



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Currently, the Foundation contributes about \$1.7 million per year to its statewide fellowships, and additional funds support individual artists in Greater Minnesota.

The American Composers Forum, which administers these programs on behalf of the McKnight Foundation, is committed to supporting composers and developing new markets for their music.

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